

# LIRA TOWN COLLEGE

BEGINNING OF TERM I EXAMS 2013

S.6 LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

P310 / 2      ARISTOPHANES:    LYSISTRATA

**Instruction:** Answer two questions in all. Question one is compulsory.

1. Read the extract below carefully and answer the questions that come after it.

Women: Alas, great Zeus!

Lysistrata: Why cry to Zeus? For 'tis but natural. (In her ordinary voice) I just can't keep them on their vow of abstinence any longer. They're deserting. One I caught clearing out the stopped-up hole in the wall near Paris Grotto – another letting herself down by a rope – another leaving her post as sentry – and there was even one yesterday who was trying to fly down on sparrow – back – aiming straight for the nearest pimpshop!

I was able to grab her by the hair and pull her back. And they invent every kind of excuse just to be allowed to go home. Here's one now. (To first woman who is trying to leave the Acropolis swiftly and stealthily).

Hey, you, where do you think you are going?

First woman: I want to go home. I've got some fleeces there from Miletus, and the months will be eating them up.

Lysistrata: No nonsense about moth! Go back inside.

First woman: But I promise you, I swear, I'll come right back. I'll only spread it on the bed.

Lysistrata: No you won't; you're not going anywhere.

First Woman: Am I to leave my fleeces to be destroyed, then?

Lysistrata: (unyielding) if necessary, yes.

Second Woman: (rushing out of the Acropolis) Help! My flax, my Amorgian flax! I left it at home without taking the bark off!

Lysistrata: Here's another – flax this time.  
(To second woman) come back.

Second Woman: But by Artemis I will< as soon as I've stripped it off!

Lysistrata: No. Once I let you strip anything off, they'll all be wanting to.

Third Woman: (Coming out as if heavily pregnant)  
Not yet, holy Eilithuia, not yet! Wait till I've got somewhere  
where it's lawful to give birth!

Lysistrata: What's all this nonsense?

***Questions:***

- (i) What circumstance has led to this scene?
- (ii) What is the situation in this extract?
- (iii) What does the extract reveal about the character of Lysistrata?
- (iv) What are the themes under treatment according to this extract?

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